



WHITTIER
NEIGHBORHOOD
DENVER, COLORADO

WHITTIER NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT

A PUBLICATION FROM THE WHITTIER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION • VOLUME 2.09

I Every Second Saturday Games

This Valentine's Day join other game lovers at **Community Game Day!** On Sat., Feb. 14 — *and every second Saturday of the month* — you can play your favorite board and card games from **noon until 7 P.M.** at the Whittier Community Center, 2900 Downing St.

Drop in for a game or two, or stay all afternoon. The group organizers will provide an ample supply of classics, as well as "designer" games and are happy to teach you how to play. The group is open to residents of Whittier and surrounding neighborhoods, as well as their guests. Gamers under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, contact Michelle or Scot at 303.927.6686 or herrohans@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FREE DAYS

Denver Art Museum
First Saturday of every month

Children's Museum of Denver
First Tuesday of every month

Denver Zoo
Sat., Feb. 14 & Tues., Feb. 24

Denver Botanic Gardens
Mon., Feb. 16

SPECIAL NEEDS CONFERENCE

Sat., Feb. 21 • 9 A.M. – 2 P.M.

Northeast Academy Charter School, 4895 Peoria St.

Nurturing Our Village Association presents a conference to increase awareness for children and adults with special education/healthcare needs of resources available for the minority community.

303.371.2273

conference@novalsm.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

WNA
MEETING

WED., FEB. 18

6:30 P.M.

COMMUNITY CENTER
2900 DOWNING STREET
SUITE 1B

Feb. 18 WNA meeting features DMNS President and youth corps

With the passage of the Better Denver program by 2007 city-wide vote, the City is implementing an exciting program that will improve the lives of Denver's citizens.

Denver Museum of Nature & Science President and CEO, George Sparks, will share details of the Museum's use of \$20 million of the bond funds toward much-needed improvements on their 100-year-old building in City Park. Projects include the renovation of Phipps Special Exhibits Gallery. Bringing the gallery up to contemporary museum standards will allow the Museum to continue to present high-quality exhibits in a more comfortable, accessible space.

The remaining \$30 million of the funds will be used to build a new science education center enabling the Museum to deliver science classes to Colorado children in modern, comfortable classrooms. Underneath the science education center will be a new storage area to house 1 million objects in their collections.



DENVER MUSEUM OF
NATURE & SCIENCE

WWW.DMNS.ORG • MONTVIEW & COLORADO BLVD. • 303.322.7009

Mile High Youth

Corps improves communities and the lives of youth by putting young people to work in urban neighborhoods, public parks and open spaces.

They have a 16-year track record of engaging youth in jobs that help the planet and provide pathways to a promising future. By integrating paid work experience on community projects with career exploration, education, and lifeskills training, the Corps helps youth develop the skills they need to succeed in the classroom, the workforce and everyday life. Through hands-on service, youth gain the knowledge, skills and motivation they need to make positive changes in their community, their own lives and the world.

For more information, go online to www.milehighyouthcorps.org



MILEHIGH
YOUTH & CORPS





TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE FOR COLORADO FAMILIES

If you make less than \$42,000 and have children living at home, the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit can help you keep more of the money you work so hard to earn. If you qualify, you owe less in taxes and may even get hundreds or thousands of dollars back. Plus, there are more tax credits available for saving for retirement and for college.

There is a free tax site at Manual High School, Rm. 310.

The site is open

Saturdays 8 A.M.–2 P.M.

Thursdays 6–8 P.M.

Dial 211 (it's a free call) to learn about these tax credits and to find help filing your taxes, or go to www.piton.org/eitc.

CRÉDITOS FISCALES DISPONIBLES PARA FAMILIAS EN COLORADO

Si Usted gana menos de \$42,000 el año y tiene hijos menores de edad, el Earned Income Tax Credit y el Child Tax Credit le pueden ayudar mantener más de su sueldo. Si Usted califica, paga menos impuestos y es posible que le reembolzen centenas o millares de dólares. También hay más créditos fiscales disponibles para ahorrar dinero para la universidad o la jubilación.

Hay ayuda disponible en Manual High School, Rm. 310, sábado 8 AM–2 PM y jueves 6 PM–8 PM.

Whittier on parade for St. Patrick's Day

Attention Whittier residents! How would you like to help represent the Whittier neighborhood by marching with your neighbors in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade? This event brings together groups from all across Denver in one of the largest such parades in the country! As an



umbrella organization, the WNA is inviting local groups and organizations that operate on behalf of and within Whittier to share their pride and participate on **Sat., March 14.**

Contact Grant Van Pelt at grantvanpelt@hotmail.com or 303.704.7419 if you are interested in joining in the "parade unit." It's going to be a lot of fun, and a great way to meet people doing wonderful things all across our neighborhood!

Dance Cabaret license denied for former Kiva owner

An application for a Dance Cabaret license for Blackberries Bar and Grill and Dynasty event center was denied after a hearing Jan. 7 at the City and County of Denver liquor license office.

Blackberries owner, Sudan Muhammad, wanted to add an events facility to the Blackberries Bar and Grill, which he recently opened in the old Kiva Restaurant location at Downing Street and 31st Ave. The building currently may be used for businesses serving alcoholic beverages under an existing hotel and restaurant liquor license. But the existing license does not allow for live music or dancing. To accommodate Muhammad's plans, the building's owner, Marty Chernoff, needed to add the Dance Cabaret license to the existing license.

Muhammad had the support of residents and neighborhood leaders for a restaurant and events facility, but there were many concerns about other potential uses of the license. A Dance Cabaret license also allows operation of a nightclub, a business that nearby neighbors did

not support. Those concerns intensified when online advertising came to light that advertised the Dynasty event center as "Dynasty Nightclub."

Liquor licenses and upgrades are awarded through a public hearing process and weigh "the needs and desires" of the neighborhood. But once awarded, the license or upgrade can only be revoked if a liquor code or city law is broken.

Residents and neighborhood association leaders from Whittier and Curtis Park testified at the hearing in opposition to the license. Chernoff did not attend the hearing, but authorized Muhammad to speak on his behalf. After the hearing, Chernoff announced he was no longer doing business with Muhammad and wished to return to the original Kiva Restaurant concept with the events center addition. He now has the option to appeal the decision. Although there were attempts to work out a Good Neighbor Agreement with Chernoff and Muhammad before the hearing, the efforts were not successful. No further attempts have been made.



Free trees for Whittier!

Whittier Tree Warriors are measuring yards to see if residents can apply for a FREE tree! If you find an application on your door, be sure to fill it out and send it in! The deadline is **Mon., March 16.** *The WNA will have volunteers to pick up your tree and even plant it if you need help.*

What are the benefits of growing a tree?

- Neighborhoods with trees have higher property values.
- Trees can help reduce heating and cooling costs.
- Air quality can be improved by growing trees.
- Noise pollution can be reduced by increasing the number of trees.
- Increasing tree cover can have a calming and mentally restorative effect.
- A well-forested neighborhood increases community pride and fosters a sense of belonging.

How much does it cost to grow a tree?

- For the first three to five years it takes to establish a young tree, water costs are about \$1/tree/year.

For more information, contact Cathy Calder at 303.296.1680 or chc@blondedesign.com.

BE A "SNOW ANGEL"

Keep an eye out for your elderly or disabled neighbors after big snowstorms. Help them by shovelling their walks or running errands.

Committee to work on agreement for homeless facility

A task force of nine neighborhood representatives will meet in February to discuss a Good Neighbor Agreement with developers of a homeless residential facility at Martin Luther King Boulevard and Downing Street.

The meeting, Feb. 2, is being organized by Councilwoman Carla Madison, after an informal poll done on her behalf indicated the majority of those surveyed preferred a higher density, mixed-income development.

Members of the task force include the neighborhood association presidents from Whittier, Cole and Curtis Park. In addition, two residents and one alternate from each neighborhood were selected. They will be meeting with the property owner, Bo Matthews; his consultant, Claudie Minor; developer, Henry Burgwyn; and a representative of Denver's Road Home project, Pat Coyle. Madison has retained Elizabeth Suarez as the facilitator. Suarez facilitated the three public meetings about the project in November and December.

The public meetings addressed current plans for the "Fourth Quarter Project," a 28-unit homeless residential facility to be built at 3156 Downing Street, currently the site of Baby Buds used clothing and two adjacent rental units. The Bo Matthews Center for Excellence is spearheading the project, which includes a plan to add a Call Center in their building at 3030 Downing Street. They also applied for funding to the Road Home project for support services for the project.

The poll was conducted at the December public meeting to address the plans for the Fourth Quarter Project. In addition, the neighborhood associations of Whittier, Cole and Curtis Park contacted residents through e-mail and door-to-door canvassing.

Results of the poll were:

52% voted for Option B:

I support the 28 units ONLY if it is part of a higher density, mixed income development. If that happens then I can support a Good Neighbor Agreement.

27% voted for Option A:

I support the 28 units as presented by the Bo Matthews Center and going ahead with a Good Neighbor Agreement.

17% voted for Option C:

I totally oppose the project.

3% voted for Option D:

I oppose the project but I would support a Good Neighbor Agreement as a last resort.

1% cast a vote for both options A and B.

Of those casting votes, 53% were from Whittier, 20% from Cole, 18% from Curtis Park and 9% were from San Rafael.

Members of the task force from Whittier include Linda Dowlen, president of the Whittier Neighborhood Association; John McBride, long-time Whittier resident; Russell Bowe, formerly on the Mayor's committee to develop the 10-year plan to end to homelessness and a nearby resident; and Ron Lee, resident and a representative of the Diverse Neighborhood Collective.

FASTRACKS UPDATE

The East Corridor Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is available for public review/comment. The Preferred Alternative is electric commuter rail transit between Denver Union Station and DIA with stations at 38th/Blake, Colorado, Central Park, Peoria, and 40th/Airport. The DEIS includes a detailed analysis of the social, environmental, and economic effects of the project alternatives. It is available to the public for a 45-day comment period, Jan. 30–March 16, 2009.

Public Meetings

Wed., March 4

5:30–8:30 P.M.

North Middle School
12095 Montview Blvd.

Thurs., March 5

5:30–8:30 P.M.

Bruce Randolph Middle School
3955 Steele St.

For additional updates:

www.eastcorridor.com



XCEL REBATE PROGRAM FOR HOMEOWNERS

Properly insulating and sealing a home can help reduce monthly energy bills and make your home more comfortable.

Xcel Energy has opened its "Insulate Colorado" Homeowner Rebate Program for its residential gas customers who make certain energy efficient improvements to their homes. Installation of insulation must occur between 1/1/2009 and 12/31/2010.

For details, visit the WNA web site to download rebate form.

Manual CAP students ask their peers to "Pick It Up!"



The Community Adventure Program (CAP) is a semester-long class, sponsored by the Cottonwood Institute, designed for students who want to explore important environmental issues affecting their communities, and develop the skills necessary to help change the world.

During the fall semester of the 2008–09 school year, students from the Community Adventure Program at Manual High School decided to take on the problem of trash. They noticed that not only was there a lot of trash in the hallways, lunchroom, and outside courtyard, but also on surrounding streets and within the community as well.

Students researched the causes and impact of litter. They met with key community leaders to identify resources available to them, practice grant writing skills, and create marketing and education strategies. Students researched where in the school there was the most litter and interviewed students and staff to find out their perspective on the problem. After their research was complete, students decided they wanted to increase the amount of trashcans at their school (because the current ones were overflowing), make them more attractive and visible, and implement an education and awareness campaign.

Student partnered with the WNA and wrote a grant to purchase 10 new trash cans for the school. They painted the trashcans in Manual colors and placed them strategically around the school in highly trafficked, high litter locations. Students also created an awareness campaign highlighting litter facts, what students can do to help, and why they should care about having a clean school. This information was presented to the students body and posted around the school near the new trashcans.

WNA BOARD

2900 Downing St., 1B
Denver, Colorado 80205

PRESIDENT

Linda Dowlen • 303.282.6672
WNAPresident@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Position open

TREASURER

Nathan Beal • 303.667.2801
nathanbeal@yahoo.com

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jeff Neuman-Lee • 303.589.3882
jeffneumanlee@msn.com

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Cathy Calder • 303.296.1680
chc@BlondeDesign.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

Amy Angelilli • 303.963.5965
smaartpr@comcast.net

Beautification Committee

Volunteers needed

House Tour Committee

Gary Kleiner and Linda Dowlen, Co-chairs
303.282.6672 • WhittierTour@aol.com

Community Services

& Health Committee
Jim Considine, Chair • 303.837.1164
WhittierCSHC@gmail.com
Volunteers needed

Education Committee

Nancee Braan, Chair • 303.296.1793
braandn@earthlink.net
Volunteers needed

Public Safety Committee

Dave McGuinness, Chair • 303.963.5665
dmacaudio@comcast.net
Volunteers needed

Newsletter editors: Cathy and James Calder Newsletter design: Blonde Ambition • Please submit articles for the Whittier Spotlight to chc@BlondeDesign.com. Only digital files accepted. Due to space constraints, your submission may be edited. Spotlight Advertising Opportunities: Please contact Cathy Calder at 303.296.1680 or chc@BlondeDesign.com • Newsletter funding: Thanks to a generous grant from The Denver Foundation

COMMUNITY CENTER RENTALS—Both a current schedule of use and a reservation request form can be found at WhittierNeighborhood.org. Find them on the Community Center page. All reservation requests are now handled on the web site, so please don't call—you'll just be redirected to the web site.

RESOURCES

BANYAN TREE/WHITTIER DRUM PROJECT
303.322.4418

BO MATTHEWS CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE
303.295.0376 • matthewscenters.org

COLORADO GOVT. • colorado.gov
Senator: Peter Groff • 303.866.3342
peter.groff.senate@state.co.us
Representative: Beth McCann
303.866.2959
ehmccann@comcast.net

DENVER CITY COUNCIL
District 8 Office, 2713 Welton
Councilwoman Carla Madison
carla.madison@ci.denver.co.us
303.587.6543

At Large
Councilman Doug Linkhart
doug.linkhart@ci.denver.co.us
720.865.8000
Councilwoman Carol Boigon
carol.boigon@ci.denver.co.us
720.865.8100

DENVER CITY GOVT. INFO
Just dial 311 • Denvergov.org

THE DENVER FOUNDATION
303.300.1790 • denverfoundation.org

DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Blair Caldwell branch
720.865.2401
Hours: Mon., Tues 12–8 P.M.
Wed & Fri. 12–6 P.M. • Sat. 9 A.M.–5 P.M.

Ford Warren branch
720.865.0920 • Tues. & Wed. 12–8 P.M.
Thurs. & Fri. 10 A.M.–6 P.M.
Sat. 9 A.M.–5 P.M.

DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
dpsk12.org

DENVER POLICE DEPT. – DISTRICT 2
Dispatch 720.913.2000 • Office 720.913.1000
Neigh. Police Officers Choice Johnson &
Andrew Richmond • 720.641.1596
Tech. Reyes Trujillo • 720.913.1094

GRAFFITI CLEAN-UP
720.865.7867 • Denvergov.org/graffiti
Supplies: Cop Shop, Park Ave. & Champa St.
303.295.4007 • WhittierCSHC@gmail.com

HOPE COMMUNITIES
2543 California St.
303.860.774 • hopecommunities.org

LEAD SAFE DENVER
303.377.3334 • leadsafedenver.org
hud.gov/offices/lead/outreach/
remodel.pdf

MANUAL HIGH SCHOOL
720.423.6300 • rob_stein@dpsk12.org

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY CONGRESS FOR EDUCATION (NCCCE)
Meets every Tuesday • 6:30 P.M.
Blair Caldwell Library, 2401 Welton St.
303.294.1141

RTD REPRESENTATIVE
Chris Martinez • 303.317.7218
chris.martinez@RTD-Denver.com

RADIO READING SERVICE OF THE ROCKIES
For the blind, visually impaired and
handicapped • 303.786.7777 • rrsr.org

RIDE ARRANGERS (Alternate transportation)
303.458.7665 • drcoc.org

SALVATION ARMY RED SHIELD CENTER
2901 High Street • 303.295.2107

TRASH PICKUP
Large item pickup: Feb. 2–7 • Mar. 9–14
Recycling service set-up: call 3-1-1

UNITED WAY COMMUNITY RESOURCE AND REFERRAL SERVICE
Just dial 211

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA COMMUNITY CONNECT PROGRAM at Manual High School
720.423.6322
communityconnect@voacolorado.org

WHITTIER K–8 PTFCO
2nd Tues. 5:30–6 P.M., dinner 6–7:15 P.M.
303.910.6698 • gkmortimer@comcast.net

Looking for home values in Whittier?

Check out *Whittier Today* on www.whittierneighborhood.org

Rebekah Brock & Heather Heuer
Your Whittier Experts
R&R Team, Prestige Real Estate Group LLC
303.831.1160
www.randrteam.com





Become a member of the Whittier Neighborhood Association—or renew your membership—and start making a difference today!
Membership cards are available at monthly WNA meetings.

Name _____

Names of others in household _____

Address _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

E-mail _____ Interests _____

I am enclosing \$20/household (\$12/Senior household) as new member(s) _____ as renewing member(s) _____ plus an additional donation of \$ _____ to the Whittier Neighborhood Association.

Your membership is fully tax deductible and will be used to support the Whittier Community Center at 29th Ave. and Downing St. Please enclose check made payable to Whittier Neighborhood Association and mail to 2900 Downing Street, 1B • Denver, CO 80205